

From: metalhed@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:09pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

While I am not a U.S. citizen the effects of Microsoft (MS) as a U.S.-based company does have influence on my everyday life.

As a 25-year-old student in the Netherlands I can say that:

(1) I'm not very financially self-sufficient (in other words: I haven't the money to pay for software)

(2) For all the work I'm required to do I need MS software products and third party software that ONLY works with the MS Windows operating system (OS)

(3) There's no way to use proprietary-format documents on MY CHOICE of office-productivity software but MS Office. Hence the need to borrow a computer elsewhere or make "illegal" copies of it.

In a nutshell what I am trying to say is: I want CHOICE! I want the freedom to choose for myself again what I work with without it being thrust upon me by my employer/educator/otherwise. MS and its platform is so ubiquitous, so omnipresent it's sickening and revolting.

The only place I can decide for myself HOW I do what I need to do is at home where I successfully use other (free) operating systems such as FreeBSD, Linux, OS/2, BeOS.

I actually enjoy using 3 different internet browsers.

But because MS Internet Explorer (MSIE) is used by 70% (or was it 90?) of the world's browsing public AND has many proprietary (thus: secret) formatting working inside, more and more websites only cater to the MSIE-using public (it's simple economics) leaving the rest out in the cold.

This includes more and more GOVERNMENT websites for which citizens pay yet many can't use as we are denied acces for not using a "correct browser".

If only the MS strongarm tactics would cease for a while, the world+dog would realise how counter-productive this situation is. Sadly, most new computer users and businesses and retailers are as complacent as they are gullible MS consumers.

I WANT CHOICE!

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mike Neman